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\$4. BT 15588/000i-03-03

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Tomohiro SAKAI

Confirmation No. 2260

Serial No. 09/883,328

Group 2651

Filed June 19, 2001

LOOP DIAGNOSIS SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR DISK ARRAY APPARATUSES

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

RECEIVED

Commissioner for Patents

DEC 2 6 2002

Washington, D.C. 20231

Technology Center 2600

Sir:

In compliance with Rules 1.97 and 1.98, and in ful-fillment of the duty of disclosure under Rule 1.56, the accompanying documents, copies of which are attached to this statement, are made of record on the enclosed sheet.

A concise explanation of the relevance of these items is that these references were cited by the Japanese Patent Office in the corresponding Japanese Application Serial No. 2000-185588, filed June 21, 2000. A copy of the Japanese Official Action in which they were cited is attached hereto, with what is believed to be the pertinent portion enclosed in a wavy line. An English translation of the enclosed portion is also attached hereto.

Under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97(e), the undersigned hereby certifies that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign Patent Office in a

S.N. 09/883,328

counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Statement.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON

Ву

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Telephone: 703/521-2297

December 23, 2002

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